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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,193	02/13/2002	Pascal Nicolle	SCHN:018	5283
6160	7590	01/09/2004	EXAMINER	
PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P. 1421 PRINCE STREET SUITE 210 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2805			PEREZ DAPLE, AARON C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2121	

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/073,193

Applicant(s)

NICOLLE ET AL.

Examiner

Aaron C Perez-Daple

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Action is in response to Application filed 2/13/02, which has been fully considered.
2. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination.
3. This action is non-Final.

Oath/Declaration

4. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because: the foreign priority date is recited as "19 February 2002" where it should recite --19 February 2001--.

Specification

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: headings should be provided for each section of the specification. Appropriate correction is required.

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.

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- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Objections

- 6. Claims 1-16 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claims contain parenthetical references to the drawings, which references should be removed. Appropriate correction is required.
- 7. Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: lines 1-2 recite "any one of the previous claims" where they should recite --any one of claims 1-9--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

- 8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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9. **Claims 1-10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As for claim 1, the terms "grammar file" and "description grammar" are vague and indefinite. Although Applicant is entitled to act as his/her own lexicographer, Applicant has not provided a specific definition of the term "grammar." In the context of the specification, the Examiner interprets that the terms "grammar file" and "description grammar" include any programming language (or style sheet) which can be represented in text format (see pg. 6, lines 10-16 of the specification). The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's discussion of "grammar description files" on page 14 of the specification, but finds that the discussion does not clarify the claim (i.e. limitations from the specification may not be read into the claims).
10. Regarding claim 1, the phrase "(ladder, SFC, FBD)" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) in parenthesis are part of the claimed invention or merely examples. See MPEP § 2173.05. For the purpose of applying prior art, the Examiner interprets that any graphic automation language meets the limitation of the claim.
11. Furthermore, claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because it is not clear what relationship exists between the different claimed languages and the grammar file. Specifically, lines 7-8 of claim 1 recite "using a single, hierarchised and object oriented language." However, the "description grammar" is claimed as being related to a second one of a plurality of "automation languages" (line 7). The relationship between the "object oriented language," the "automation language" and the "description grammar" is not clear from the claim. For example, it is not clear if the

grammar file(s) contain code written in the “automation language” (and formatted according to the object oriented language) or if the grammar file(s) merely contains instructions for translating between “automation language” code and the hierarchised object oriented language (possibly via the use of XSLT style sheets). Moreover, it is not clear if a translation/transformation step is being claimed (as cited in page 6 of disclosure) and, if so, what is being translated to what. For the purpose of applying prior art, the Examiner interprets that any system which uses a text-based object oriented language (such as C+ or XML, for example) to transform, structure, or translate/interpret instructions of at least one graphic automation language meets the limitations of the claim (i.e. such a system would necessarily contain at least one “grammar file” for implementing the transformation).

12. As dependent claims, claims 2-10 suffer from the same deficiencies as claim 1.
13. **Claim 7** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, it is not clear whether the phrase, “namely a step, a transition, a jump, a link between graphs, a comment” is an all-inclusive limitation on the claim or merely a set of examples of elements that may be represented as objects. (In either case, the Examiner notes that these programming elements are well-known to those of ordinary skill in the art.)
14. **Claim 10** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the phrase “dialoguing through notifications” renders the claim indefinite. A definition of “dialoguing through notifications” has not been

provided in the specification or the claim. Moreover, aside from “dialoguing,” it is not clear from the claim what role the XML handler plays in the invention (i.e. does it transform the data using the “description grammar”?). The term “a tree structure management module” is indefinite. The Examiner interprets that Applicant intends to claim a management module which uses a decision tree model (or that can be represented using a decision tree).

15. **Claim 14** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term “respect” in line 2 of claim 14 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term “respect” is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. The term “grammars” is indefinite for reasons similar to those cited in the rejection of claims 1-10, above. In this case, it is not clear if “grammars for translation” consists of a programming language or formatted rules or some other data. Furthermore, the relationship between said “grammars for translation” and “description files” is indefinite and not clearly defined by the claim (e.g. what is being translated to what? what role do grammars have in the translation process?). In addition, since the description files in claims 11-12 are already claimed as being in XML, claim 14 appears to claim translating XML files into XML files, which clearly does not make sense. Based on the specification, it appears that Applicant intends to claim using description files in XML to translate instructions from one or more graphic automation languages into another format. It is not clear what format these instructions are intended to be translated into. It is also possible that Applicant intends to claim translating instructions from one more

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graphic automation languages into XML using XSLT style sheets or another data transformation method (see page 6 of the specification). For the purpose of applying prior art, the Examiner finds that either interpretation meets the limitation of the claim.

16. Claim 14 recites the limitation "the grammars" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

17. **Claim 15** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term "description grammar" is indefinite for reasons similar to those cited in the rejection of claims 1-10, above. Because it is not clear what is meant by "description grammar" it is further not possible to determine how it can be "satisfied." In this case, the Examiner interprets that the "description grammar" consists of rules for structuring the graphic automation language.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

18. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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19. **Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nixon et al (US 5,801,942) (hereinafter Nixon).
20. As for claim 1, Nixon discloses an automation application programming station designed to be executed in automation equipment, characterized in that it has an internal memory in which it stores at least one grammar file (402) in text format, containing description grammar for automation applications, for at least one of the graphic automation languages (ladder, SFC, FBD) using a single hierarchised and object oriented language [col. 3, lines 58-65, "In accordance with...a control strategy."; col. 9, lines 33-45, "The process control...in that language."; col. 12, line 50 - col. 13, line 22, "The configuration model...and the like."].
21. As for claim 2, Nixon discloses a programming station according to claim 1, characterized in that memory also contains a set of one or several description files (401), each description file describing part of the automation application and being expressed in the single, hierarchised and object oriented language [col. 9, line 33 - col. 10, line 36, "The process control...are concrete classes."; col. 13, lines 8-43, "Referring to Fig. 5...as follows...."].
22. As for claim 4, Nixon discloses a programming station according to claim 2, characterized in that all application description files (401) contain an application program description file, an application input-output description file, and an application data description file [col. 9, line 33 - col. 10, line 36, "The process control...are concrete classes."; col. 12, line 50 - col. 13, line 43, "The configuration model...as follows...."].
23. As for claim 5, Nixon discloses a programming station according to claim 2, characterized in that a grammar file (LD_Source.*) describes an application in Ladder

language defining the different elements of the Ladder language as objects, each of these elements containing attributes either in the form of objects, parameters, variables or texts, and forming information stored in the internal memory of the programming station and that can be represented in the form of a tree structure [col. 12, line 50 - col. 13, line 7, "The configuration model... control module are hidden."].

24. As for claim 6, Nixon discloses a programming station according to claim 5, characterized in that the various elements of the Ladder language include a contact, a horizontal link, a vertical link, a coil, a short circuit, an empty cell, a function block cell, an FFB expression, a comparison block and an arithmetical operations block [col. 12, line 50 - col. 13, line 7, "The configuration model... control module are hidden."]; Nixon teaches representing elements in the Ladder language as objects. Because the Ladder language, as known to those of ordinary skill in the art, includes a contact, a horizontal link, a vertical link, a coil, a short circuit, an empty cell, a function block cell, an FFB expression, a comparison block and an arithmetical operations block, Nixon also teaches representing the specific elements as objects. Moreover, Nixon is solving a general process control problem in the automation arts and, since these elements are standard in the process control arts (see also col. 2, lines 10-21), Nixon clearly anticipates these specific limitations.].

25. As for claim 7, Nixon discloses a programming station according to claim 2, characterized in that a grammar file (SFC_source.*) describes an application in the SFC language, namely a step, a transition, a jump, a link between graphs, a comment, as objects, and the graphic coordinates of the different jump, step or transition type elements being defined by a position type object defining the coordinates of the position of the

corresponding object in the table of rows and columns on which the graph of the object is displayed on the programming station display means [col. 12, line 50 - col. 13, line 7, "The configuration model...control module are hidden."]; Nixon teaches representing applications in the SFC language as position type objects with associated coordinates (see also Fig. 11). Because the SFC language, as known to those of ordinary skill in the art, is a graphical language including steps, transitions, jumps, links between graphs, and comments, Nixon also teaches representing the specific elements as objects.].

26. As for claim 8, Nixon discloses a programming station according to claim 2, characterized in that a grammar file (FBD_source.*) describes an application in the FBD language using the different elements of the FBD language as objects [col. 12, line 50 - col. 13, line 7, "The configuration model...control module are hidden."].
27. As for claim 9, Nixon discloses a programming station according to claim 8, characterized in that the different elements in the FBD language include function blocks, text boxes, links between blocks, jump instructions, labels and comments [col. 12, line 50 - col. 13, line 7, "The configuration model...control module are hidden."]; Nixon teaches representing elements in the FBD language as objects. Because the FBD language, as known to those of ordinary skill in the art, includes function blocks, text boxes, links between blocks, jump instructions, labels and comments, Nixon also teaches representing the specific elements as objects.].
28. As for claim 11, Nixon discloses an automation equipment capable of executing an automation application, characterized in that it comprises memory means [master database 260, Fig. 2] to store a set of one or several automation application description files (401)

expressed in a single, hierarchised and object oriented language [col. 9, lines 33-45, "The process control...in that language."; col. 12, line 50 - col. 13, line 22, "The configuration model...and the like."], the automation equipment also comprising translation means to convert description files into a binary language that can be executed by the automation equipment [conversion to binary machine language is inherent, as understood by those of ordinary skill in the art].

29. **Claims 1 and 11-13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lawrence et al (US 6,393,341 B1) (hereinafter Lawrence). As for claim 1, Lawrence discloses an automation application programming station designed to be executed in automation equipment, characterized in that it has an internal memory in which it stores at least one grammar file (402) in text format, containing description grammar for automation applications, for at least one of the graphic automation languages (ladder, SFC, FBD) using a single hierarchised and object oriented language [Fig. 3; col. 3, line 58 - col. 4, line 10, "The interface 20...modification of meter types."].
30. As for claim 11, Lawrence discloses automation equipment capable of executing an automation application, characterized in that it comprises memory means to store a set of one or several automation application description files expressed in a single, hierarchised and object oriented language [Fig. 3; col. 3, line 58 - col. 4, line 10, "The interface 20...modification of meter types."], the automation equipment also comprising translation means to convert description files into a binary language that can be executed by the automation equipment [conversion to binary machine language is inherent, as understood by those of ordinary skill in the art].

31. As for claim 12, Lawrence discloses the automation equipment according to claim 11, characterized in that the single, hierarchised and object oriented language is the XML (extended markup language) [col. 4, lines 5-10, "The repository 26...of meter types."].
32. As for claim 13, Lawrence discloses the automation equipment according to claim 12 characterised in that the set of application description files contains an application program description file, an application input-output description file, and an application data description file [col. 3, line 31 - col. 4, line 36, "The interface 20...significant time and cost savings."]

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

33. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

34. **Claims 3 and 10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nixon (US 5,801,942) in view of Lawrence et al (US 6,393,341 B1) (hereinafter Lawrence).

35. As for claim 3, although Nixon discloses that there are plural object oriented languages which may be used for the practice of the invention [col. 9, lines 33-45, "The process control...in that language."], Nixon does not specifically disclose that the object oriented language may be the XML (extended markup language) language. Lawrence teaches using XML, which is inherently a hierarchised and object oriented language, for translating instructions between applications in a central programming station and automation equipment with different local programming [Fig. 3; col. 3, line 58-col. 4, line 10, "The

interface 20...of meter types.”]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Nixon by using XML as the hierarchised object oriented language, because XML facilitates the translation of instructions between different applications and process automation equipment, as taught by Lawrence.

36. **Claim 10** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nixon (US 5,801,942) in view of Lawrence (US 6,393,341 B1) and in further view of Lau (US 6,5998,219 B1). As for claim 10, Nixon teaches a handler in non-volatile memory, dialoguing through notifications firstly with a tree structure management module representative of the automation application expressed in the single, hierarchised and object oriented language, and also with a plurality of database managers, each manager being specific to part of the automation application stored in one of the databases [Figs. 2, 5 and 22; col. 11, lines 46-56, “The run-time implementation...to destination objects.”]. Nixon does not specifically disclose that the handler may be an XML handler. Lawrence teaches using an XML handler for translating instructions between applications in a central programming station and automation equipment with different local programming [Fig. 3; col. 3, line 58-col. 4, line 10, “The interface 20...of meter types.”]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Nixon by using an XML handler, because XML facilitates the translation of instructions between different applications and process automation equipment, as taught by Lawrence.

37. **Claims 14 and 16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being obvious over Lawrence (US 6,393,341 B1) in view of Nixon (US 5,801,942). As for claim 14, Lawrence teaches using XML, which is inherently a hierarchised and object oriented language, for translating

instructions between applications in a central programming station and automation equipment with different local programming [Fig. 3; col. 3, line 58-col. 4, line 10, "The interface 20...of meter types."]. Lawrence does not specifically disclose that the instructions may comprise graphic automation languages. Nixon discloses using a hierarchised object oriented language to translate instructions in graphic automation languages [col. 12, line 50 - col. 13, line 43, "The configuration model...as follows..."]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Lawrence by translating instructions from graphic automation languages, because this would allow for using the methods of Lawrence in a wide variety of control systems employing traditional graphic automation languages and further provide different users with the configuration most useful to them, as taught by Nixon [col. 3, lines 39-65, "Several control languages...a control strategy."].

38. As for claim 16, Nixon further discloses that the graphic automation languages may include one or more of the Ladder language, the SFC language and the FBD language [col. 3, lines 58-65, "In accordance...a control strategy."]. (See rejection of claim 14 for motivation.)

39. **Claim 15** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being obvious over Lawrence (US 6,393,341 B1) in view of Nixon (US 5,801,942) and in further view of Lau (US 6,598,219 B1). As for claim 15, neither Lawrence nor Nixon specifically disclose means of checking that the description of the application in the XML language satisfies the description grammar of the graphic automation language used. Lau teaches a means for translating data using XML which includes means of checking the arrangement of the data [col. 2, line 66 - col. 3, line 20, "According to an...according to XML."]. It would have been obvious to one of

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ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Nixon and Lau by checking that the description of the application in the XML language satisfies the description grammar of the graphic automation language used, in order to validate the arrangement of the data and prevent errors, as taught by Lau.

Conclusion

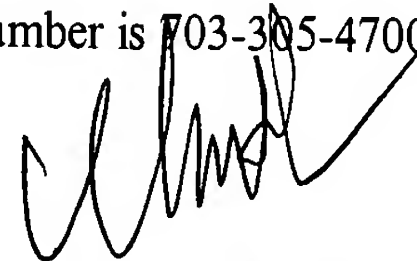
40. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 6,618,629 B2, note teaches translating machine specific language into common XML format; US 6,342,907 B1, note platform independent graphics interface using XML; US 5,812,394, note object oriented control program; US 5,485,620, note background; US 5,731,974, note decision tree; US 6,463,352, note object oriented control; US 6,507,857, note teaches XML transform via XSLT; US 5,267,145, note ladder logic; US 6,437,805 B1, note object oriented control application; US 6,256,589 B1, note teaches SFC.
41. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron C Perez-Daple whose telephone number is (703)305-4897. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anil Khatri can be reached on (703)305-0282. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

12/22/03

Aaron Perez-Daple



ANIL KHATRI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER